

## REMARKS

The final Office Action mailed June 11, 2008 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10-16, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 25-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-7, 10-16, 18-22, and 25-30 stand rejected. Claims 5 and 20 have been canceled by this amendment.

The rejection of Claims 1, 5-7, 10-13, 16, 20-22, and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,234,161 to Levi et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Levi”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,899,028 to Arai et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Arai”) is respectfully traversed.

Levi describes a gas cooking appliance 2 including a cooktop 5. Cooktop 5 includes an upper peripheral portion 13 and a recessed well area 15. A chamber 123 is defined by cooktop 5 and by an isolation pan 102 coupled to an underside of cooktop 5. Peripheral portion 13 includes a plurality of air openings 120 and 121 defined therein. A central set of openings 124 are also defined on peripheral portion 13 to enable air to be exhausted from an oven cavity 38. Notably, Levi does not describe or suggest a clip overlapping a bottom surface of a cooktop, and partially positioned within a cavity defined by a vent trim surface and the cooktop, wherein the clip is attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of the vent trim and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to the bottom surface of the cooktop.

Arai describes a cooking apparatus that includes a casing 16, a heating coil 17, a cooling unit 19, a top plate 20 and a grill 22. Grill 22 is coupled to a portion of top plate 20. Grill 22 includes front and rear suction ports 27 and 27' to provide cooling air 33 to cooling unit 19 and to further exhaust surrounding cooking air through an exhaust device 23. Notably, Arai does not describe or suggest a clip overlapping a bottom surface of a cooktop, and partially positioned within a cavity defined by a vent trim surface and the cooktop, wherein the clip is attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of the vent trim and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to an underside of the cooktop.

Claim 1 recites an air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus having at least one gas burner and a burner box around the at least one gas burner. The air inlet system includes “a cooktop configured to cover the burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the at least one gas burner, said at least one peripheral vent cut defining a first opening through said cooktop; and a vent trim attached to said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said vent trim comprising a top surface offset a distance above a top surface of said cooktop, said vent trim top surface comprising a plurality of second openings defined therein, said second openings aligned above said at least one peripheral vent cut, said vent trim facilitating isolating said plurality of second openings from spills on said cooktop, an attachment portion overlapping said top surface of said cooktop, said attachment portion extending along substantially a full length of said at least one peripheral vent cut, and at least one clip overlapping a bottom surface of said cooktop, said vent trim surface defining an underlying cavity, wherein said at least one clip is partially positioned within said cavity under said vent trim and said cooktop, said at least one clip attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of said vent trim and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to said bottom surface of said cooktop, wherein said second openings are configured to allow outside air to enter the burner box through said vent trim.”

No combination of Levi and Arai describes or suggests an air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Levi and Arai describes or suggests a clip overlapping a bottom surface of a cooktop, and partially positioned within a cavity defined by a vent trim surface and the cooktop, wherein the clip is attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of the vent trim and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to the bottom surface of the cooktop. Rather, Levi merely describes a cooktop with an upper peripheral portion that includes a plurality of air openings, and Arai merely describes a grill that provides air to a cooling unit.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Levi in view of Arai.

Claim 5 has been canceled by the above amendment. Claims 6 and 7 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 6 and 7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 6 and 7 are likewise patentable over Levi in view of Arai.

Claim 10 recites an air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus having at least one gas burner and a burner box around the at least one gas burner. The air inlet system includes “a cooktop configured to cover the burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the at least one gas burner; and an elongated cover member attached to a top face and a bottom face of said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member having a top surface with openings configured to allow outside air to enter said at least one peripheral vent cut through said cover member, said top surface offset a distance above said top face of said cooktop and said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member facilitating isolating said openings from spills on said cooktop, said top surface defining an underlying cavity, said cover member comprising at least one tab engaging said top face, and at least one clip overlapping said bottom face of said cooktop, wherein said at least one clip is partially positioned within said cavity under said cover member and said cooktop, said at least one clip attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of said cover member and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to said bottom face of said cooktop.”

No combination of Levi and Arai describes or suggests an air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, no combination of Levi and Arai describes or suggests a clip overlapping a bottom face of a cooktop, and partially positioned within a cavity under a cover member and the cooktop, wherein the clip is attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of the cover member and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to the bottom face of the cooktop. Rather, Levi merely describes a cooktop with an upper peripheral portion that includes a plurality of air openings, and Arai merely describes a grill that provides air to a cooling unit.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is patentable over Levi in view of Arai.

Claims 11-13 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11-13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 11-13 are likewise patentable over Levi in view of Arai.

Claim 16 recites a gas cooking apparatus that includes “at least one gas burner; a burner box for said at least one gas burner; a cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into said burner box to

provide air for said at least one gas burner, said at least one peripheral vent cut defining a first opening through said cooktop; and a vent trim attached to said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said vent trim comprising a top surface offset a distance above a top surface of said cooktop, and comprising a plurality of second openings defined therein, said plurality of second openings aligned above said at least one peripheral vent cut, said vent trim facilitating isolating said second openings from spills on said cooktop, an attachment portion overlapping said top surface of said cooktop, said attachment portion extending along a full length of said at least one peripheral vent cut, and at least one clip overlapping a bottom surface of said cooktop, said vent trim surface defining an underlying cavity, wherein said at least one clip is partially positioned within said cavity under said vent trim and said cooktop, said clip attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of said vent trim and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to said bottom surface of said cooktop, wherein said second openings are configured to allow outside air to enter said burner box through said vent trim.”

No combination of Levi and Arai describes or suggests a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 16. More specifically, no combination of Levi and Arai describes or suggests a clip overlapping a bottom surface of a cooktop, and partially positioned within a cavity defined by a vent trim surface and the cooktop, wherein the clip is attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of the vent trim and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to the bottom surface of the cooktop. Rather, Levi merely describes a cooktop with an upper peripheral portion that includes a plurality of air openings, and Arai merely describes a grill that provides air to a cooling unit.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 is patentable over Levi in view of Arai.

Claim 20 has been canceled by the above amendment. Claims 21 and 22 depend from independent Claim 16. When the recitations of Claims 21 and 22 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 16, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 21 and 22 are likewise patentable over Levi in view of Arai.

Claim 25 recites a gas cooking apparatus that includes “at least one gas burner; a burner box for said at least one gas burner; a sealed cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into said burner

box to provide air for said gas burner; and an elongated cover member attached to a top face and a bottom face of said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member having a top surface with openings configured to allow outside air to enter said at least one peripheral vent cut through said cover member, said top surface offset a distance above said top face of said cooktop and said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member facilitating isolating said openings from spills on said cooktop, said surface defining an underlying cavity, said cover member comprising at least one tab engaging said top face, and at least one clip overlapping said bottom face of said cooktop, wherein said at least one clip is partially positioned within said cavity under said cover member and said cooktop, said at least one clip attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of said cover member and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to said bottom face of said cooktop.”

No combination of Levi and Arai describes or suggests an air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 25. More specifically, no combination of Levi and Arai describes or suggests a clip overlapping a bottom face of a cooktop, wherein the clip is partially positioned within a cavity under a cover member and the cooktop, and is attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of the cover member and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to the bottom face of the cooktop. Rather, Levi merely describes a cooktop with an upper peripheral portion that includes a plurality of air openings, and Arai merely describes a grill that provides air to a cooling unit.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 25 is patentable over Levi in view of Arai.

Claims 26-28 depend from independent Claim 25. When the recitations of Claims 26-28 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 25, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 26-28 are likewise patentable over Levi in view of Arai.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 1, 5-7, 10-13, 16, 20-22, and 25-28 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 3, 4, 14, 15, 18, 19, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levi in view of Arai and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,653,219 to Taplan et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Taplan”) is respectfully traversed.

Levi and Arai are described above.

Taplan describes a drop-in cooktop 1 that includes a pan-shaped base 5 and a continuous glass-ceramic cook plate 2 that includes two atmospheric gas burners 3, 3' mounted therein. Cooktop 1 also includes an air-inlet device 15 that enables the primary air to the gas burner to be adjusted. Air-inlet device 15 includes an outer tube or curved channel 16 that is seated in a gap 8 defined between boundary edges 18 and 20 and includes a lateral outer opening 22 formed therein. Notably, Taplan does not describe or suggest a clip overlapping a bottom surface of a cooktop, and partially positioned within the cavity under the vent trim and the cooktop, wherein the clip is attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of the vent trim and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to the bottom surface of the cooktop.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from Claim 1, which is recited above.

No combination of Levi, Arai, and Taplan describes or suggests an air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Levi, Arai, and Taplan describes or suggests a clip overlapping a bottom surface of a cooktop, and partially positioned within a cavity defined by a vent trim surface and the cooktop, wherein the clip is attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of the vent trim and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to the bottom surface of the cooktop. Rather, Levi merely describes a cooktop with an upper peripheral portion that includes a plurality of air openings, Arai merely describes a grill that provides air to a cooling unit, and Taplan describes an air-inlet device capable of adjusting air supplied to gas burners.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Levi in view of Arai and in further view of Taplan.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 3 and 4 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 3 and 4 are likewise patentable over Levi in view of Arai and in further view of Taplan.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from Claim 10, which is recited above.

No combination of Levi, Arai, and Taplan describes or suggests an air inlet system for

a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, no combination of Levi, Arai, and Taplan describes or suggests a clip overlapping a bottom face of a cooktop, wherein the clip is partially positioned within a cavity under a cover member and the cooktop, and attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of the cover member and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to the bottom face of the cooktop. Rather, Levi merely describes a cooktop with an upper peripheral portion that includes a plurality of air openings, Arai merely describes a grill that provides air to a cooling unit, and Taplan describes an air-inlet device capable of adjusting air supplied to gas burners.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is patentable over Levi in view of Arai and in further view of Taplan.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 14 and 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 14 and 15 are likewise patentable over Levi in view of Arai and in further view of Taplan.

Claims 18 and 19 depend from Claim 16, which is recited above.

No combination of Levi, Arai, and Taplan describes or suggests a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 16. More specifically, no combination of Levi, Arai, and Taplan describes or suggests a clip overlapping a bottom surface of a cooktop, and partially positioned within a cavity defined by a vent trim surface and the cooktop, wherein the clip is attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of the vent trim and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to the bottom surface of the cooktop. Rather, Levi merely describes a cooktop with an upper peripheral portion that includes a plurality of air openings, Arai merely describes a grill that provides air to a cooling unit, and Taplan describes an air-inlet device capable of adjusting air supplied to gas burners.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 is patentable over Levi in view of Arai and in further view of Taplan.

Claims 18 and 19 depend from independent Claim 16. When the recitations of Claims 18 and 19 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 16, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 18 and 19 are likewise patentable over Levi in view of Arai and in further view of Taplan.

Claims 29 and 30 depend from Claim 25, which is recited above.

No combination of Levi, Arai, and Taplan describes or suggests an air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 25. More specifically, no combination of Levi, Arai, and Taplan describes or suggests a clip overlapping a bottom face of a cooktop, wherein the clip is partially positioned within a cavity under a cover member and the cooktop, and is attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of the cover member and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to the bottom face of the cooktop. Rather, Levi merely describes a cooktop with an upper peripheral portion that includes a plurality of air openings, Arai merely describes a grill that provides air to a cooling unit, and Taplan describes an air-inlet device capable of adjusting air supplied to gas burners.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 25 is patentable over Levi in view of Arai and in further view of Taplan.

Claims 29 and 30 depend from independent Claim 25. When the recitations of Claims 29 and 30 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 25, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 29 and 30 are likewise patentable over Levi in view of Arai and in further view of Taplan.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 3, 4, 14, 15, 18, 19, 29, and 30 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Eric T. Krischke/

Eric T. Krischke  
Registration No. 42,769  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070